

# The Green Clan

KICKAPOO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE



## Tribal Recycling Bin

The recycling bin for the Kickapoo Tribe is located in the casino parking lot just behind the Tribal Gaming Commission and west of the environmental office. The bin is for use by Tribal residents. It can hold newspaper, shredded office paper, plastic, and cardboard. It used to contain aluminum but the amount of aluminum collected each month experienced a big drop-off due to the popularity of plastic containers.

### PLASTIC

Once the recycling bin gets full, it is hooked up to a truck and hauled to the Potawatomi Transfer station where it is unloaded. It takes a bit of time to unload it, especially if plastic bottles have been loosely thrown into the recycling bin, so we ask that you put your plastic bottles into a plastic grocery bag, or a 4 gallon plastic trash bag, tie it up, and then place it in the recycling bin. This would be big help to those who have to unload the trailer. Naturally, we accept only #1 or #2 plastic.

### CARDBOARD

We also ask that you break your cardboard down (flatten it), so that more cardboard can fit into the container. If empty boxes are thrown in without breaking them down, then the bin get full very quickly.

### PAPER

Put your newspapers in a plastic bag or a paper grocery bag, and then place it in the bin. Please do not put newspapers loosely into the bin but put them in one of the requested

bags to make it easier to manage when unloading. Some places will not accept magazines or *slicks* with newspapers, so please try to bundle them separately.

### ALUMINUM

We don't get much, so we don't have a storage place in the bin for it. Our staff stores aluminum in the office, so we actually do accept it, and we actually desire it. If you recycle your own aluminum and haul it yourself, then stop by the office to see if we have any, and we'll give it to you. We just want to see aluminum get recycled. If it helps others...great! You can call us about our available aluminum at 785-486-2601.

## WHY COMPOST?

The Kickapoo Environmental Office did a survey last summer that showed that 50% of those surveyed did not know they could easily compost in their own backyard; 24% felt that their trash can was too small. Food was the number one category of material thrown away.

If you were to start composting, you'd use those food scraps to feed your compost pile. Add a little water, some food garbage, coffee grinds, and soon you'd have a pile of soil-nourishing compost that you could mix in your gardens or spread around the yard. It's just one way in which you can help yourself.

If you've never undertaken a compost pile but like new challenges, then start one right away. Need a new hobby? Try compost. If you're simply curious about how household garbage can turn into compost, then start a compost pile. And if you want to reduce the amount of trash in your household, then start a compost pile. You could also reduce weekly trash volume by recycling.

Making and using compost is just another way of appreciating your connection to nature.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

Some products we use around our homes contain hazardous ingredients, or chemicals that can harm us or our environment.

To tell if a product is hazardous read the label. Check the label for key words such as: danger or caution, corrosive, irritant, explosive, harmful.

Some of these chemicals dumped on the ground or into a gutter can contaminate soil and the un-

derground water supply.

Some keys to handling hhw is to buy only what you need, or small amounts. Read and follow label instructions carefully. Wear protective clothing, and store in cool, dry places away from children or pets. Do not mix products that may be incompatible.

In Brown County there is now a new option for disposal of hhw, and the Tribe is included in utilizing the HHW Facility at the Brown County landfill south of Hiawatha. By May, you can take hhw to the facility; they will accept it and dispose of it for free. The landfill number is 785-547-3415 and they can answer

## RADON ON THE KICKAPOO RESERVATION

The Kickapoo Environmental Office tested the majority of homes on the reservation for radon in 2006. Those tests indicated that radon is present on the reservation but not at high levels, and radon does enter homes around the reservation. As

homes age and shift, the radon finds more pathways to enter homes. We expected to find radon and were pleased to see that the levels were not very high. Ra-

***RADON IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER IN THE U.S.***

don is odorless, so funny smells in the house cannot be radon. The only health effect of radon is lung cancer. Any other ill-health effect is cause by something other than radon.

## Emergency Home Survival Kit

some information obtained from internet website

In the event of emergency, you should be prepared to sustain yourself and your family for 3 days. Certain disasters take more time to respond to and are devastating a wide area, so be prepared to take care of your own needs the first few days with these kind of precautions:

You should have blankets, candles, food (food bars are excellent), waterproof matches, water stored in clean containers and changed every 2 or 3 months. Have a flashlight and batteries, safety whistle, can opener, canned goods, am/fm radio, tissue packs, first aid kit, gas shut

off wrench to avoid gas explosions.

You may come up with more. Best to be prepared. Be prepared to be on your own for at least 3 days.